

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: (651) 602-7900  
FAX: (651) 602-7914

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Transmitted via Email

December 2, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN No. 260-6-8

SUBJECT: INF- 2006 EQIP PROGRAM NEWS RELEASE

Purpose. To distribute a news release about the 2006 EQIP signup.

Expiration Date. December 31, 2006.

Attached to this bulletin is a news release about the 2006 EQIP signup. Please feel free to adapt, as needed, and distribute as soon as possible to your local news outlets.

The State Office will distribute this news release to a wide-array of media outlets in the State.

All technical questions about EQIP should be directed to Timothy Koehler, EQIP Program Manager at (651) 602-7857. Questions regarding public information efforts should be directed to Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist, at (651) 602-7859.

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

Attachment (1)

DIST: AO

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate News Release**

**For more information contact:  
Tim Koehler (651)-602-7857  
Julie MacSwain (651)-602-7859**

### **EQIP SIGNUP PERIOD ANNOUNCED**

**St. Paul, MN, December 2, 2005** –The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that \$25 million is available to help agricultural producers apply needed conservation practices on land throughout Minnesota. William Hunt, State Conservationist for NRCS in Minnesota, announced the signup dates for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which will be held at all USDA Service Centers in Minnesota.

The EQIP signup period in Minnesota will begin on December 15, 2005. Applications will be scored and ranked on a locally prioritized statewide environmental ranking worksheet. Signup for EQIP concludes on January 31, 2006.

EQIP is a popular program with Minnesota farmers, assisting them to solve environmental problems. Producers will receive up to 50 percent cost-share while certified limited resource farmers may receive up to 90 percent to implement conservation practices.

EQIP is a competitive program with the most cost-effective and environmentally beneficial projects selected for funding. To apply for funding, landowners should visit the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center for their county.

“Our focus with EQIP is to help producers with conservation on working agricultural land,” said Hunt. “Implementing conservation practices on privately owned working land, which is 70 percent of the land base in this country, is the most effective thing we can do to protect our water quality and the health of our soil.” EQIP also supports abundant wildlife habitat and productive grasslands and woodlands.

For more information on conservation practices and/or the statewide and county EQIP signup, contact the NRCS at your local USDA Service Center or visit the Minnesota NRCS website at: [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov)